

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-16, 37, and 39 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5, 18, 38, and 40-49 are canceled and Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment. Claims 7, 17, and 19-36 were previously canceled.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 37 was objected to; Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 15, 16 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,634,916 to Kaneko et al. (herein "Kaneko"); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 08-022785 to Osamu et al. (herein "Osamu"); Claims 10-13 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,342 to Ono et al. (herein "Ono"); and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,008,576 to Nakatani et al. (herein "Nakatani").

Regarding the objection to Claim 37, Claims 1 and 37 are amended to replace "face plate" with --faceplate--. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kaneko. Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the U.S. filing date of Kaneko is March 21, 2001, which is later than the priority date of claimed foreign priority document JP 11/94340, which is March 31, 1999. Therefore, to overcome that rejection, an English translation of JP 11/94340 will be provided shortly.

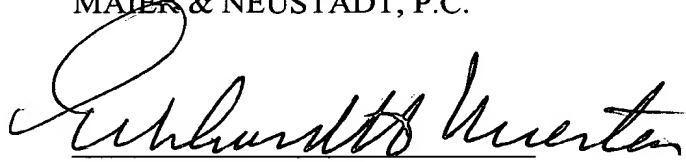
Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that rejection be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eckhard H. Kuesters", written over a horizontal line.

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